

§ 17.113

will apply the recovered amounts to those debts in accordance with the best interests of the United States, as determined by the facts and circumstances of the particular case, paying special attention to applicable statutes of limitations.

§ 17.113 Procedures for administrative offset: interagency cooperation.

The Department will make use of all possible methods of cooperating with other Federal agencies in effecting collections by offset.

§ 17.114 Procedures for administrative offset: time limitation.

(a) The Secretary may not initiate administrative offset to collect a debt under 31 U.S.C. 3716 more than 10 years after the Secretary's right to collect the debt first accrued, unless facts material to the Secretary's right to collect the debt were not known and could not reasonably have been known by the officials of the Department who were responsible for discovering and collecting such debts.

(b) When the debt first accrued is determined according to existing law regarding the accrual of debts. (See, for example, 28 U.S.C. 2415.)

§ 17.115 Procedures for administrative offset: offset against amounts payable from Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

(a) Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Secretary may request that moneys which are due and payable to a debtor from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund be administratively offset in one or more payments to collect debts owed to the Secretary by the debtor. The Secretary submits the request to the appropriate officials of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in accordance with OPM regulations and procedures.

(b) To request administrative offset under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary will provide a written certification that:

(1) The debtor owes the Secretary a debt, including the amount of the debt;

(2) The Secretary has complied with the applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures of the Office of Personnel Management; and

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(3) The Secretary has complied with the Department's regulations contained in these regulations.

(c) Once the decision is made to request administrative offset under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary will make the request as soon as practical after completion of the applicable procedures necessary for the Office of Personnel Management to identify the debtor's account and to add a notation in the debtor's file in anticipation of the time when the debtor requests or becomes eligible to receive payments from the Fund. (This notation will satisfy any requirement that offset be initiated before the applicable statute of limitations expires.)

(d) If, at the time the debtor makes a claim for payments from the Fund, at least one year has elapsed since the offset was originally made, the debtor may offer a satisfactory repayment plan instead of offset upon establishing that changed financial circumstances would render the offset unjust.

(e) If the Department collects part or all of the debt by other means before deductions are made or completed under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary will act promptly to modify or terminate the Department's request for offset under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 17.116 Procedures for administrative offset: offset of debtor's judgment against the United States.

Collection by offset against a judgment obtained by a debtor against the United States will be accomplished in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3728.

§ 17.117 Procedures for administrative offset: imposition of interest.

Interest will be charged in accordance with § 17.72.

§ 17.118 Miscellaneous provisions: correspondence with the Department.

(a) All correspondence from the debtor to the Secretary shall be addressed to the Department Claims Officer, Office of Finance and Accounting, Department of HUD, Washington, DC 20410.

(b) The Department Claims Officer will deliver any correspondence to the